Money wasted for image building by CIL

1645. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Ltd. has been burning public money on an image making exercise;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been giving largesse to a private club in Kolkata and has also spent Rs. 10 lacs on a PR exercise; and

(c) the action Government have taken to curb the expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. CIL spends only a miniscule part of its overall profit on publicity as a part of an overall corporate strategy.

(b) CIL has not been given any amount to any private club on continuous basis. However, it made a one time contribution of Rs. 10 lacs of Kolkata club as a co-sponsor of an event known as "International Evening" organized by them. As reported by CIL part of the funds raised on the occasion were to be reserved for the betterment of the weaker sections of society and to be contributed to the Governor's or Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

(c) The Government have been underscoring the need to exercise austerity and prudence in order to achieve efficient cost management by public sector enterprises. The case of above mentioned donation is being looked into.

Lignite resources in Cauvery belt of Tamil Nadu

1646. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mining activities are already under operation in Jayam kondam cholapuram and some other places in Couvery bed of Tamil Nadu for lignite production.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, Government's plan for mining the lignite resources found in those areas and by when?